

VZCZCXRO7609  
RR RUEHDBU RUEHLN RUEHVK RUEHYG  
DE RUEHYE #0714 1451239  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 251239Z MAY 06  
FM AMEMBASSY YEREVAN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3223  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS YEREVAN 000714

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/CARC

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AM](#)  
SUBJECT: FORMER ORINATS YERKIR DEPUTIES ESTABLISH NEW  
PRO-GOVERNMENTAL PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

REF: YEREVAN 647

Sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

¶1. (SBU) On May 25, ten (of eleven) National Assembly members who left outgoing Speaker Artur Baghdasarian's Orinats Yerkir (OY) Party Faction, created a new deputy group called Gortsarar (Entrepreneur). The members of Gortsarar elected Grigor Margaryan, the owner of "Bellagio" restaurants network, to be their leader. The group, which abandoned the OY as a result of alleged pressure from the Presidential administration, is likely to remain loyal to the Government.

¶2. (SBU) Six members of this group were elected into the National Assembly through the Orinats Yerkir party list; they did not, however, give up their mandates after leaving the party. (Note: Parliamentary bylaws contain no mechanism to force someone who leaves a party (and was elected via the party list) to give up his seat, but leave it to the member of parliament's individual conscience to comply with the intent of the rules. End Note.) Due to this gap in the rules, the OY faction (now down to nine members) will no longer control all twelve seats it won from the party list in ¶2003.  
EVANS